

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 W  
-----093918 071056Z /14

O 070950Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8804  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7018

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, CG, NI, ZA  
SUBJECT: MOBUTU TO VISIT LAGOS AND NIGERIA MOVES TO MEDIATE SHABA

REF: LAGOS 6795

1. ACCORDING TO MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VICTOR TAYLOR, MOBUTU IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN LAGOS NEXT WEEK. THE TRIP HAD BEEN PLANNED BEFORE THE RECENT SHABA CRISIS AND HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO OVERRULED MEA PLEAS TO POSTPONE IT BECAUSE OF FEARED DEMONSTRATIONS BY AN ANTI-MOBUTU POPULACE. MEA IS TREATING TRIP AS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL ANNOUNCE IT ONLY ON EVE OF HIS ARRIVAL, IF AT ALL. ACCORDING TO TAYLOR, THE ONLY BENEFICIAL RESULT OF RECENT STUDENT RIOTS IS THAT  
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STUDENTS WILL BE DISPERSED AT TIME OF MOBUTU VISIT.

2. TAYLOR SAID THAT MEA HAD ATTEMPTED TO CANCEL THE VISIT BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AN INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED DURING THE MAY 30 VISIT OF MOBUTU'S SPECIAL ENVOY, AMB. LENGEMA. AT THAT TIME, LENGEMA PROTESTED TO MEA OVER A DAILY TIMES ARTICLE QUOTING STOCKWELL'S BOOK AS

SAYING THAT MOBUTU HAD POCKETED ONE MILLION DOLLARS OF CIA FUNDS MEANT FOR ANGOLA, AND DEMANDED THE FMG ISSUE A RETRACTION. WHEN HE WAS INFORMED THAT NIGERIA HAD A FREE PRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT INTERFERE, LENGEMA SAID THAT UNLESS A RETRACTION WERE ISSUED MOBUTU COULD NOT PROCEED WITH HIS SCHEDULED VISIT. TAYLOR SAID THAT WHEN THEY CALLED LENGEMA'S BLUFF, TELLING HIM TO GO AHEAD, HE BACKED DOWN. MEA ADVISORS, HOWEVER, REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO OBASANJO URGING HIM TO USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE THE VISIT. OBASANJO REFUSED, INSISTING THE VISIT TAKE PLACE.

3. TAYLOR ALSO REVEALED IN CONFIDENCE THAT FMG HAS FEELERS OUT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH NETO, MOBUTU AND KAUNDA IN AN EFFORT TO MEDIATE IN SHABA. HE SAID NIGERIA HAD MADE A SIMILAR ATTEMPT AFTER SHABA I LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, AN UNHAPPY COINCIDENCE CAUSED NETO TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS AND THE INITIATIVE FOUNDERED. IT SEEMS THAT A MEETING WITH NETO IN LAGOS COINCIDED WITH THE ANNUAL VISIT OF THE U.S. NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE TO NIGERIA. ACCORDING TO TAYLOR, THE GROUP APPEARED IN MEA AT THE SAME TIME AS NETO. HE WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE AMERICAN PRESENCE AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME UNCOOPERATIVE. NIGERIA'S RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA REMAINED COOL THEREAFTER AND ONLY A YEAR'S CONCENTRATED EFFORT RESTORED THEM TO THE POINT WHERE NETO AGREED TO VISIT

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LAGOS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR. THE NIGERIANS BELIEVE THE CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH THAT PARTICULAR GROUP CAUSED NETO TO QUESTION NIGERIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND RESULTED IN DISTRUST OF NIGERIA'S INTENTIONS IN SHABA. TAYLOR BELIEVES THE RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD ENOUGH NOW TO WARRANT CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT THE NIGERIANS CAN BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER. HE SAID THAT GARBA HAS SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE, BUT DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON THEM.

WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** MOBUTU TO VISIT LAGOS AND NIGERIA MOVES TO MEDIATE SHABA  
**TAGS:** MOPS, OVIP, CG, NI, ZA, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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